

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A remote control camera system which is remote-controlled by a plurality of users, said remote control camera comprising:

(a) an image pickup device capable of picking up a live image and outputting said live image to outside;

(b) a changing element for changing a pickup direction of said image pickup device;

(c) a composing element for forming composite image information by continuously composing a plurality of pieces of image information picked up by said image pickup device in different image pickup directions;

(d) a memory for storing said composite image information;

(e) an extraction element for forming extracted Image information derived from said composite image information in response to a request from outside;

(f) an output device for outputting said extracted image information; and

(g) a controlling element for repeating an operation of forming a composite image and storing said composite image by overwriting said memory at a given timing, wherein

in the case when there is a request from outside for changing said pickup direction while picking up and outputting said live image, said controlling element obtains said extracted image information derived from said composite image information and outputs said extracted image

information in response to said request from outside without changing said pickup direction of said image pickup device.

Claim 2 (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The remote control camera system according to claim 1, wherein
an image pickup process by said image pickup device, a composing process of said plurality of pieces of picked-up image information by said composing element and a storage process made by said memory for the composite image information that has been composed are repeated at predetermined timing.

4. (Original) The remote control camera system according to claim 3, wherein
said composing element forms composite image information by using images picked up at different timing.

5. (Original) The remote control camera system according to claim 1, further comprising:

live image output device for outputting a live image,
wherein, in the case when there is not any request from outside for a predetermined period of time, said image pickup device is directed in the direction in which an extracted image lastly output was picked up, and a live image picked up by said image pickup device is output through said live image output device.

6. (Original) The remote control camera system according to claim 1, wherein said image pickup device comprises:

(a-1) an element for changing a zoom magnification;

said composing element comprises:

(c-1) an element for generating a plurality of pieces of composite image information for respective different zoom magnifications; and

said extraction element comprises:

(e-1) selector for selecting a piece of composite image information among said plurality of pieces of composite image information in response to a zoom request from outside; and

(e-2) an element for subjecting said one piece of composite image information to an image processing suitable for said zoom request from outside and for generating said extracted image information.

7. (Original) The remote control camera system according to claim 1, wherein said image pickup device comprises:

(a-2) an element for changing a zoom magnification;

said composing element comprises:

(c-2) an element for generating one piece of composite image information at a maximum zoom magnification; and

said extraction element comprises:

(e-3) an element for subjecting said piece of composite image information to an image processing suitable for the zoom request from outside and for generating said extracted image information.

8. (Original) The remote control camera system according to claim 1, wherein said image pickup device comprises a plurality of cameras, and said remote control camera system further comprises:

(g) live image output device which, in response to said request from outside, outputs live image information picked up by at least one camera among said plurality of cameras as live images.

9. (Original) The remote control camera system according to claim 8, wherein, in the case when there is not any request from outside for a predetermined period of time, said at least one camera is directed in the direction in which an extracted image lastly output was picked up, and live image information picked up by said at least one camera is output through said live image output device.

10. (Original) The remote control camera system according to claim 8, wherein said extraction element comprises:

(e-4) an element for generating said extracted image information by combining said live image information and said composite image information.

11. (Original) The remote control camera system according to claim 1, wherein said image pickup device comprises a plurality of cameras, and said composing element generates said composite image information by composing a plurality of pieces of image information picked up by said plurality of cameras.

12. (Original) The remote control camera system according to claim 1, wherein said output device outputs said extracted image information only when said corresponding request is made from outside.

13. (Original) The remote control camera system according to claim 1, wherein said image pickup device comprises:

(a-3) a conversion element for converting a voltage to a displacement;

(a-4) a driving member connected to a displacement member of said conversion element;

(a-5) a focus lens section that contacts said driving member in a manner so as to slide thereon; and

(a-6) a driving voltage generator for generating a driving voltage to be applied to said conversion element.

14. (Original) The remote control camera system according to claim 13, wherein said image pickup device comprises:

(a-7) a zoom lens section that contacts said driving member in a manner so as to slide thereon.

Claims 15 – 17 (Cancelled)